

## **Darfur Hearing**

BIDEN: Thank you for being here, Mr. Ambassador. Welcome. And welcome to our outside witnesses as well: Susan Rice, a former assistant secretary of state for Africa now at Brookings; Stephen Morrison, one of the leading think-tank experts on Africa from CSIS; and Larry Rossin, the leader of the Darfur -- Save Darfur movement. Folks, it's been four years now since the crisis in Darfur erupted, four years since the genocide began. And it's been three years and nine months since Congress formally recognized this as genocide. The resolution in both the House and Senate passed three years and nine months ago and it passed unanimously. Not a single member denied the horror that was under way. It's been three years and seven months since the administration added its own recognition. On September 9, 2004, in testimony before the committee, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell said clearly that the killings in Darfur was genocide. Shortly thereafter, so did President Bush. So now, all these years later, the question still remains: What are we going to do about it? What are we going to do to stop the slaughter, to return the survivors to their homes, to bring those responsible for the murder, rape and terror to justice and to build a lasting peace? What are we going to do about Darfur? That's the question I've asked the ambassador. He's the administration's point person for Darfur. And like his predecessor, Deputy Secretary Zoellick, I have no doubt about his dedication and determination to do the right thing. In December, the ambassador told a group of senators that Khartoum had until the end of the month to agree to the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers. That deadline has long since passed with no agreement by Khartoum to accept the peacekeepers and no reaction from the United States or the international community to its refusal. Today this committee expects to hear from the ambassador a concrete plan of action. I hope you'll flesh out the administration's plan B, as was referred to earlier, and tell us how and when the administration will act on that plan.